

Message Text

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43

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USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

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DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PE

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT TO PRESS RE PEACE CORPS EXPULSION

1. I HAVE ISSUED A STATEMENT (ENGLISH AND SPANISH TEXTS GIVEN IN SUBSEQUENT PARAGRAPHS) CONCERNING THE RECENT GOP DECISION TO TERMINATE THE BASIC 1962 PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT. THE STATEMENT, WHICH IS PRESENTED IN FACTUAL AND NON-POLEMICAL TERMS, IS BEING DISTRIBUTED BY USIS/LIMA TO ALL LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPERS, GOP INFORMATION AGENCIES, AND INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES. A TAPE IS ALSO BEING PREPARED TO OFFER TO LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL RADIO STATIONS. DESPITE INDICATIONS THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WAS BEING PREPARED, THE GOP HAS ISSUED NO STATEMENT TO DATE WITH RESPECT TO TERMINATION OF THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM.

2. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TEXT OF STATEMENT:

QUOTE IN DIPLOMATIC NOTES SENT TO THE U.S. EMBASSY EARLY THIS MONTH, THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF PERU EXPRESSED ITS DECISION TO TERMINATE THE 1962 AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES PROVIDING FOR THE SERVICES IN PERU OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. IN THESE NOTES THE GOVERNMENT EXPLAINED THAT HENCEFORTH IT WOULD USE ITS OWN RESOURCES TO PERFORM THE DESIRED TASKS AND THEREFORE THE SERVICES OF THE VOLUNTEERS WOULD NO LONGER BE NECESSARY. THE NOTES ALSO EXPRESS THE APPRECIATION OF THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE SERVICES THAT THE U.S. VOLUNTEERS HAVE PROVIDED. WE RESPECT THE DECISION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF PERU AND CONTINUE READY TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY.

UNFORTUNATELY UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS AND SPECULATION HAVE BEEN MADE THAT U.S. PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY OR INFORMATION-GATHERING ACTIVITIES OF A POLITICAL NATURE. SUCH ACTIVITIES WOULD HAVE VIOLATED THE BASIC PERU-U.S. AGREEMENT AND THE LAWS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. THEY HAVE NOT OCCURRED.

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ENTERED PERU PURSUANT TO THE BASIC 1962 AGREEMENT AND SUBSEQUENT SPECIFIC INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ACCORDS. THEIR ASSIGNMENTS HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT
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THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND THE NATIONAL PLANNING INSTITUTE. THESE VOLUNTEERS HAVE WORKED AS TECHNICIANS AND SPECIALISTS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND WITH PERUVIAN COUNTERPARTS. VOLUNTEERS HAVE WORKED ONLY IN THOSE PARTICULAR AREAS AND PROJECTS FOR WHICH THEIR SERVICES WERE REQUESTED BY THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT. THESE PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, PUBLIC HEALTH, FORESTRY, FISHERIES, NUTRITION, ENGINEERING AND IRRIGATION, AS WELL AS IN

DISASTER RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS IN THE ZONE AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE OF 1970. AT NO TIME DID PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS DEPART FROM THE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THEIR ASSIGNMENTS, AGREED TO BY THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES, TO BECOME ENGAGED IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OR GATHER INFORMATION OF A POLITICAL OR SOCIAL NATURE. THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED IT. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN IT. NEITHER THE PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR NOR I WOULD HAVE PERMITTED IT.

IN GENERAL, PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ARE DEDICATED SELF-SACRIFICING INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE EARNED THE RESPECT, FRIENDSHIP AND GRATITUDE OF THE MANY PEOPLE WITH WHOM THEY HAVE WORKED OR HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED. THEY HAVE MADE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION IN THOSE AREAS IN WHICH THEY WORKED AND HAVE COOPERATED IN SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS NOW UNDER WAY IN PERU. I BELIEVE THEY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I AM CERTAIN THAT THE MANY HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO SERVE IN PERU ARE BETTER HUMAN BEINGS FOR THEIR EXPERIENCE AND WILL CARRY WITH THEM FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES A SENSE OF APPRECIATION AND DEEP FRIENDSHIP FOR THIS COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE. UNQUOTE

3. SPANISH-LANGUAGE TEXT OF STATEMENT:

QUOTE EN NOTAS DIPLOMATICAS ENVIADAS A LA EMBAJADA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA A PRINCIPIOS DEL PRESENTE MES, EL GOBIERNO REVOLUCIONARIO DE LA FUERZA ARMADA DEL PERU EXPRESO SU DECISION DE TERMINAR EL ACUERDO DE 1962 ENTRE NUESTROS DOS GOBIERNOS, DE LOS SERVICIOS PROPORCIONADOS EN EL PERU POR LOS VOLUNTARIOS DEL CUERPO DE PAZ. EN ESTAS NOTAS, EL GOBIERNO EXPLICABA QUE EN O SUCESSO USARIA SUS PROPIOS RECURSOS PARA REALIZAR LAS TAREAS REQUERIDAS Y QUE, POR CONSIGUIENTE, LOS

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SERVICIOS DE LOS VOLUNTARIOS YA NO SERIAN NECESARIOS. LAS NOTAS TAMBIEN EXPRESABAN EL RECONOCIMIENTO DEL GOBIERNO PERUANO POR LOS SERVICIOS PRESTADOS POR LOS VOLUNTARIOS NORTEAMERICANOS. RESPETAMOS LA DECISION DEL GOBIERNO REVOLUCIONARIO DEL PERU, Y CONTINUAMOS LISTOS PARA COOPERAR CON EL GOBIERNO Y EL PUEBLO DE ESTE PAIS.

DESASFORTUNADAMENTE, SE HAN HECHO AFIRMACIONES Y ESPECULACIONES INFUNDADAS DE QUE LOS VOLUNTARIOS DEL CUERPO DE PAZ SE HAN VISTO INVOLUCRADOS EN ACTIVIDADES POLITICAS O QUE HAN SIDO UTILIZADOS PARA RECOGER INFORMACION DE NATURALEZA POLITICA. DICHAS ACTIVIDADES HABRIAN VIOLADO EL ACUERDO BASICO ENTRE EL PERU Y LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS Y TAMBIEN LAS LEYES DE AMBOS PAISES. ESTO NO HA SUCEDIDO.

LOS VOLUNTARIOS DEL CUERPO DE PAZ INGRESARON AL PERU CONFORME AL ACUERDO BASICO DE 1962 Y A LOS SUBSIGUIENTES ACUERDOS ESPECIFICOS INTER-GUBERNAMENTALES. SUS NOMBRAMIENTOS FUERON APROBADOS POR EL GOBIERNO PERUANO POR INTERMEDIO DEL MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES Y DEL INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE PLANIFICACION. ESTOS VOLUNTARIOS HAN TRABAJADO COMO TECNICOS Y ESPECIALISTAS BAJO LA SUPERVISION DE FUNCIONARIOS DEL GOBIERNO PERUANO Y CON SUS SIMILARES PERUANOS. LOS VOLUNTARIOS HAN TRABAJADO SOLO EN AQUELLOS PROYECTOS Y AREAS PARA LOS QUE EL GOBIERNO PERUANO PIDIO SUS SERVICIOS. LOS PROGRAMAS PERTENECIAN A LOS CAMPOS DE AGRICULTURA, SALUD PUBLICA, SILVICULTURA, PESQUERIA, NUTRICION, INGENIERIA E IRRIGACION ASI COMO EN AYUDA IMMEDIATA Y EN LA RECONSTRUCCION DE LA ZONA AFECTADA POR EL SISMO DE 1970. LOS VOLUNTARIOS DEL CUERPO DE PAZ NUNCA SE APARTARON DE LAS ACTIVIDADES RELACIONADAS CON SUS ASIGNACIONES, APROBADAS POR EL GOBIERNO REVOLUCIONARIO DE LA FUERZA ARMADA, PARA COMPROMETERSE EN ACTIVIDADES POLITICAS O DE OTRA INDOLE. EL GOBIERNO REVOLUCIONARIO NO LO HABRIA PERMITIDO. EL GOBIERNO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS LO HA PROHIBIDO EXPRESAMENTE. Y NI EL DIRECTOR DEL CUERPO DE PAZ NI YO, LO HABRIAMOS PERMITIDO.

LOS VOLUNTARIOS DEL CUERPO DE PAT, EN GENERAL, SON PERSONAS DEDICADAS Y SACRIFICADAS QUE SE HAN GANADO EL RESPETO, LA AMISTAD Y LA GRATITUD DE LAS MUCHAS PERSONAS CON LAS QUE HAN TRABAJADO O CON LAS QUE HAN ESTADO ASOCIADOS. ELLOS HAN UNCLASSIFIED

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HECHO CONTRIBUCIONES POSITIVAS EN AQUELLAS AREAS EN LAS QUE HAN

TRABAJADO, ELLOS HAN COOPERADO EN LOS PROGRAMAS DE DESARROLLO ECONOMICO Y SOCIAL QUE ACTUALMENTE SE LLEVAN A CABO EN EL PERU. CREO QUE ELLOS HAN CONTRIBUIDO A UN MEJOR ENTENDIMIENTO ENTRE NUESTROS DOS PAISES. ESTOY SEGURO QUE LOS CENTENARES DE VOLUNTARIOS QUE HAN TENIDO EL PRIVILEGIO DE SERVIR EN EL PERU, SON AHORA MAJORES SERES HUMANOS DEBIDO A LA EXPERIENCIA LOGRADA Y LLEVARAN, POR EL RESTO DE SUS VIDAS, UN SENTIDO DE RECOMOCIMIENTO Y DE PROFUNDA AMISTAD POR ESTE PAIS Y POR US PUEBLO. UNQUOTE
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